

## Message Text

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R 101248Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

SECSTATE WASHDC 3217

UNCLAS OSLO 0693

USIAC

USIA PASS LABOR DEPT(I/LAB)

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: LABOR SEMINAR

REF: OSLO 6300

SUMMARY: OSTFOLD REGION LABOR PARTY HOSTED USIS'S SECOND SEMINAR ON "U.S. LABOR MOVEMENT IN AMERICAN LIFE" IN SARPSBORG, JANUARY 28-29. TWENTY -FIVE LABOR PARTY AND UNION OFFICIALS FROM OSTFOLD REGION PARTICIPATED.

PROGRAM: TWENTY-FIVE LEADERS OF LABOR PARTY COMMITTEES AND CENTRAL LABOR COUNCILS FROM THE OSTFOLD REGION OF SOUTHEAST NORWAY PARTICIPATED IN A TWO-DAY WEEKEND LABOR SEMINAR AT SARPSBORG, JANUARY 28-29. GUNNAR SKAUG, SECRETARY OF THE LABOR PARTY CAUCUS IN THE STORTING AND JAN JOHANSEN, OSTFOLD LABOR PARTY SECRETARY, HOSTED THE SEMINAR, WHICH WAS SUPPORTED BY A GRANT FROM USIS.

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THE THEME OF THE SEMINAR WAS "U.S. LABOR MOVEMENT IN AMERICAN LIFE." EMBASSY LABOR ATTACHE INAUGURATED THE SEMINAR WITH A SPEECH ON THE HISTORY OF THE U.S. LABOR MOVEMENT, FOLLOWED BY EMBASSY'S FSL LABOR SPECIALIST WHO SPOKE TO THE SEMINAR ABOUT THE U.S. SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND WAGE POLICY IN AMERICA. LABOR ATTACHE OPENED SUNDAY'S

SESSION WITH DESCRIPTION OF ROLE OF LABOR UNIONS IN AMERICAN ELECTIONS. THE GROUP WAS HIGHLY INTERESTED IN THIS SUBJECT, PARTICULARLY IN THE POSITIONS AND ACTIVITY OF AFL-CIO IN U.S.'S 1976 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. THE MOVIES "THE INHERITANCE" (IN ENGLISH), AND AFSCME'S "A VOICE IN THE CITY" (NORWEGIAN SOUND TRACK) WERE SHOWN TO THE SEMINARISTS AND WELL RECEIVED.

COMMENT: THE SARPSBORG SEMINAR WAS THE SECOND OF FY 77 CONDUCTED BY USIS/LABOR ATTACHE IN CONJUNCTION WITH LOCAL LO AND LABOR PARTY OFFICIALS. THE SARPSBORG AUDIENCE WAS MADE UP OF LOCAL PARTY CHAIRMAN AND CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL CHAIRMAN PLUS THE REGIONAL PARTY AND UNION LEADERSHIP, AND TWO MP'S THIS HELPED PRODUCE SOPHISTICATED QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS OF THE U.S. LABOR SCENE. THE SEMINAR ALSO GAVE EMBASSY LABOR ATTACHE CHANCE TO ESTABLISH CONTACTS IN THIS IMPORTANT LABOR PARTY STRONGHOLD.

A ONE DAY SEMINAR WILL BE HELD IN TONSBERG IN MARCH, FOLLOWED BY 1-2 WEEKEND SEMINARS IN NORTH NORWAY LATER IN 1977. WE CONTINUE TO HOPE THAT A VISITING AMERICAN EXPERT IN THE LABOR/LABOR-MANAGEMENT FIELD CAN PARTICIPATE IN OUR NEXT SEMINARS. WE CAN FIT A VISITING SPEAKER INTO THE PROGRAM ON VERY SHORT NOTICE, IF WE NEED TO.

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